

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS PATENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A peripheral device configured to be connected to a plurality of peripheral devices via a network, said peripheral device comprising:

5 means for managing said plurality of peripheral devices.

2. The peripheral device of claim 1, further comprising:

means for selecting one peripheral device out of said peripheral devices to manage said peripheral devices.

3. The peripheral device of claim 2, further comprising:

10 a web server; and

means for setting a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of said one peripheral device selected by said means for selecting.

4. The peripheral device of claim 3, further comprising:

means for enabling said means for managing when said one peripheral device selected by 15 said means for selecting is said peripheral device.

5. The peripheral device of claim 3, further comprising:

means for disabling said means for managing when said one peripheral device selected by said means for selecting is not said peripheral device.

6. The peripheral device of claim 3, wherein said means for managing comprises:

20 means for receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network;

means for requesting and receiving information from said plurality of peripheral devices;

means for setting configurations for said plurality of peripheral devices; and

means for sending information to said user station.

7. The peripheral device of claim 3, further comprising means for printing.

8. The peripheral device of claim 3, wherein said means for selecting comprises means for comparing a characteristic for each of said plurality of peripheral devices.

9. The peripheral device of claim 1, further comprising:

5 means for checking if an other peripheral device is managing said plurality of peripheral devices.

10. The peripheral device of claim 5, further comprising:

means for disabling said means for managing when said other peripheral device is managing said plurality of peripheral devices;

10 a web server; and

means for setting a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of said other peripheral device.

11. A system comprising:

a plurality of peripheral devices connected to a network,

15 wherein each peripheral device of said plurality of peripheral devices comprises:

means for managing said plurality of peripheral devices.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein each peripheral device further comprises:

means for selecting one peripheral device out of said plurality of peripheral devices to manage said plurality of peripheral devices.

20 13. The system of claim 12, wherein each peripheral device further comprises:

a web server; and

means for setting a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of said one peripheral device selected by said means for selecting.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein each peripheral device further comprises:

means for checking which peripheral device is managing said plurality of peripheral devices.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein each peripheral device further comprises:

means for enabling said means for managing.

5 16. The system of claim 14, wherein each peripheral device further comprises:

means for disabling said means for managing;

a web server; and

means for setting a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of said peripheral device managing said plurality of peripheral devices.

10 17. The system of claim 14, wherein said means for managing comprises:

means for requesting and receiving information from said plurality of peripheral devices.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein said means for managing comprises:

means for receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network;

means for requesting and receiving information from said plurality of peripheral devices;

15 means for setting configurations for said plurality of peripheral devices; and

means for sending information to said user station.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein each peripheral device further comprises means for printing.

20. The system of claim 13, wherein said means for selecting comprises means for

comparing a characteristic for each of said plurality of peripheral devices.

21. A method for managing a plurality of peripheral devices connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

selecting one peripheral device out of said plurality of peripheral devices to manage said peripheral devices;

managing said plurality of peripheral devices from said one peripheral device; and

setting default URLs of web servers for said peripheral devices to correspond to a web server for said one peripheral device.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

disabling managing means of peripheral devices other than said one peripheral device.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing from said one peripheral device comprises the step of:

receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing from said one peripheral device comprises the step of:

requesting and receiving information from said plurality of peripheral devices.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing from said one peripheral device comprises the steps of:

receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network;

requesting and receiving information from said plurality of peripheral devices;

setting configurations for said plurality of peripheral devices; and

sending information to said user station.

26. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of printing.

27. The method of claim 21, wherein said step of selecting comprises a step of comparing a characteristic for each of said plurality of peripheral devices.

28. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a peripheral device to manage a plurality of peripheral devices connected to a network, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

5        a first computer code device configured to manage said plurality of peripheral devices from one peripheral device.

29. The computer program product of claim 28, further comprising:

a second computer code device configured to select said one peripheral device out of said peripheral devices to manage said peripheral devices.

30. The computer program product of claim 28, further comprising:

10      a second computer code device configured to check which peripheral device is managing said plurality of peripheral devices.

31. The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:

a third computer code device configured to enable said first computer code device.

32. The computer program product of claim 30, further comprising:

15      a third computer code device configured to disable said first computer code device and to set a URL of a web server to correspond to a web server for said peripheral device managing said plurality of peripheral devices.

33. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

20      a second computer code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to said network.

34. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a second computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of peripheral devices.

35. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

5        a second computer code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connect to said network;

      a third computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of peripheral devices;

10      a fourth computer code device configured to set configurations for said plurality of peripheral devices; and

      a fifth computer code device configured to send information to said user station.

36. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein said second computer code device comprises a third computer code device configured to compare a characteristic for each of said plurality of peripheral devices.